

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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O R 121033Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4402
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, FR, GW, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO RELEASE OF ABU DAOUD

REF: (A) BONN 517 (B) PARIS 946 (C) STATE 6102

1. ISRAELI REACTION TO THE FRENCH DECISION TO RELEASE
ABU DAOUD HAS PREDICTABLY BEEN ONE OF OUTRAGE AND HAS
BEEN EXPRESSED IN SHARP TERMS. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON,
WHO AT THE TIME OF THE RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS AT A
KNESSET SESSION DEVOTED TO THE DAOUD AFFAIR, SAID THAT
"THIS IS NOTHING BUT A SHAMEFUL SURRENDER TO THE PRESSURES
OF THE ARAB STATES AND THE THREATS OF THE TERRORIST
ORGANIZATIONS...THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT
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PASSED THE TEST BETWEEN MINIMAL BRAVERY AND MAXIMUM
COWARDICE...WE VIGOROUSLY PROTEST THE RASH ACT OF THE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND WILL NOT PUT UP WITH IT." SPEAK-
ING LATER TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION, ALLON SAID THAT "JEWS--AND NOT
ONLY JEWS--WILL FIND A WAY TO CONVEY THEIR INDIGNA-
TION OVER THIS TERRIBLE POLICY."

2. THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, MORDECAI GAZIT, WAS INSTRUCTED JANUARY 11 TO RETURN TO ISRAEL FOR CONSULTATIONS "IN VIEW OF THE NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WITH THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST TO DETAIN MOHAMMED DAOUD AUDEH ALIAS ABU DAOUD--A REQUEST MADE UNDER THE EXTRADITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES" (ACCORDING TO A GOI BULLETIN). THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL, JEAN HERLY, WAS SUMMONED TO A MEETING WITH ALLON JANUARY 12 IN JERUSALEM WHERE HE WAS HANDED ISRAEL'S PROTEST OVER THE RELEASE OF DAOUD. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE MFA THAT ISRAEL PLANS NO FURTHER PROTESTS AT THIS TIME AND WILL AWAIT FRENCH REACTION OR COMMENT. WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE MFA WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENTSPOKESMAN'S EXPRESSION OF DISMAY. THE MFA LEGAL ADVISOR TOLD US THERE IS NO DOUBT THE FRENCH ACTION VIOLATED THE FRENCH-ISRAELI EXTRADITION TREATY (SEPTTEL).

3. ALL DAILY PAPERS COMMENT ON THE RELEASE. THE INDEPENDENT HAARETZ SAID: "PARIS IS NOT TO BE DETERRED FROM COVERING FOR ARAB TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS--AND FRANCE HAS LONG SINCE GIVEN UP EVEN A SEMBLANCE OF NEUTRALITY IN THE ISRAEL-ARAB CONFLICT." HISTADRUT'S DAVAR WROTE: "ISRAEL'S CITIZENS WILL LEARN FROM THE CYNICAL BEHAVIOR OF FRANCE THAT THE BLOOD OF ISRAELIS HAS NO IMPORTANCE IN PARIS; THEY WILL DULY NOTE THAT THE PLO HAS IDENTIFIED WITH ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE VILEST OF MURDERERS--A REMINDER THAT THIS IS STILL A TERROR-ORGANIZATION, SOMETHING THE GOOD AND NAIVE PEOPLE IN OUR MIDST WOULD HAVE US FORGET; AND THEY WILL TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE CONTINUING SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT EVINCED BY THE ARAB STATES FOR THE MURDERERS AND THEIR ORGANIZATION."

4. BOTH HATSOFEH AND AL HAMISHMAR NOTED THE LIKELY EFFECT ON ISRAELI/FRENCH RELATIONS. HATSOFEH SAID: "ISRAEL CANNOT FORGIVE THE FRENCH FOR THIS LAST DEED OF THEIRS...IT HAS SHAKEN THE VERY FUNDAMENT OF TRUST BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND PARIS. ISRAEL CANNOT GLOSS OVER THIS SHAMEFUL ACT." HASISHMAR COMMENTED THAT : "THE DAY ON WHICH ABU DAOUD WAS SMUGGLED OUT OF FRENCH TERRITORY WITH THE DIRECT AID OF THE AUTHORITIES WILL NOT ADD GLORY TO THE NAME OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, AND MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH OUR COUNTRY."
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